SHRI G. G. SWELL: I want the highlights—one, two, three, etc. What does the Government propose to do? What does the report say?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: In the tribal areas, there will be a greater concentration of Mahila Samakhyas and non-formal education and other schemes will be implemented taking them as target areas so that they are brought gradually to the level of the other sections of the population.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह साक्षरता वर्ष है और सवाल भी महिलाओं के लिए उठा है । राजस्थान जैसे पिछड़े हुए प्रांत में शिक्षा का स्तर बहुत ही कम है, अगर प्रतिशत के हिसाब से देखें, शायद सरकार ज्यादा परिचित होगी । वहां 6 प्रतिशत महिलाएं भी शिक्षित नहीं हैं । मैं जानना चाहूंगी कि ऐसे प्रान्तों में महिलाओं की शिक्षा के लिए क्या सरकार कोई विशेष परियोजनाएं तैयार कर रही है ? इसके अलावा मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि प्राथमिक शिक्षा अनिवार्य और मुफ्त हो इसके बारे में सरकार की क्या राय है ? साक्षरता वर्ष में अगर सरकार ऐसी योजना ले तो अच्छा है ।

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: We have not worked out any special schemes for Rajasthan. But there are 10 States which are considered as backward areas in relation to women's education. Rajasthan is certainly one of them where it is less than 10 per cent, according to our latest estimate. We have the Mahila Samakhya scheme and other schemes for girl students like free books, free uniforms, free midday meals and other support services are being partially implemented. We have been trying for hundred per cent grant for certain schemes and ninety per cent grant for certain other schemes. Rajasthan would be covered by these schemes.

*104. [The questioner (Shri Talari Manohar) was absent. For answer, vide col.....infra.]

Cost of training of IAF pilots

*105. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th December, 1989 and state:

(a) what was the cost of training each IAF pilot in India in 1989;

(b) whether any IAF pilot was sent for training abroad; and

(c) if so, what was the cost incurred for training each pilot in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The cost of training of each IAF pilot is worked out on an annual basis. The estimated training cost per pilot in 1989-90 is as follows:

Stage I : Rs. 25.15 lakh

Stage II : Rs. 37.15 lakhs

Stage III :

(i) Fighter Stream: Rs. 81.21 lakhs

(ii) Transport Stream: Rs. 44.92 lakhs

(iii) Helicopter Stream: Rs. 10.42 lakhs

(b) and (c) Only five pilots were deputed abroad for training relating to specific equipments, in 1989. The cost incurred in one case, for one pilot for a period of 13 months was Rs. 103.187 lakhs; and the cost in respect of the other 4 pilots, for a period of 3 months, was Rs. 85.60 lakhs.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, who are these five pilots who were sent abroad for training relating to specific equipments, in 1989, spending nearly Rs. 20 million? Has it finally proved to be useful; spending so much foreign exchange? If 'yes', how many more

pilots will be sent this year for training abroad?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Sir, there is no point in giving the names of people but for what purpose they are being sent is quite clear. For instance, there are test pilots who have to go for one or two year training and that itself costs Rs. 50 lakhs. I do not have to explain to the House the importance of a test pilot when we are constructing a large number of fighter aircraft and associated equipment. We have to send people for calibrating the performance of aeroplanes being made in the country and all this requires some training abroad. So, the number which have been sent are quite small considering the big investments made in the aircraft industry.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: My second supplementary is whether the training capacity is enough for Indian Air Force, army, naval and civil requirements of pilots in our country. Also, which are the agencies which have standardised pattern of training?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Training of pilot is the business of the Air Force. I presume that the important part of our fighting force takes all the necessary factors into consideration while planning for training and testing them for their final operations. I think that should be the answer.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: He has not said whether the existing capacity for training pilots in our country is enough for coming years also.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: If I may add, this is what I meant. It is the Indian Air Force which makes an estimate of what is required and what are the training facilities necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean to say that they have got the capacity?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Naturally, Sir.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: The man behind the machine is most important. If you see the Pakistani Air Force vis-a-vis Indian Air Force, the pilot in the Pakistani Air Force is paid much more than his counterpart in the Indian Air Force. So, the cream of the youth in Pakistan is joining the armed force whereas the same cannot be said of the armed force in India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But our pilots are doing far better and they have proved it time and again.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Except those who have retired and gone to Parliament.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Or those who have become Prime Ministers.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: The pilots have to fly very costly planes. A Mirage or a Jaguar costs about Rs. 20-30 crores. Why do we shirk from paying a little more so that the quality of the pilots could improve? You are aware of the large number of crashes that have taken place in the Indian Air Force in the last three to four years. On the one hand we are going in for very sophisticated equipment and aircraft and on the other the entry to Air Force which is of a good standard, could be of a higher order if the cream of the youth is attracted to the Armed Force Would you look into this aspect?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: I will happily look into this matter of our salaries vis-a-vis Pakistan's, but I would like to say that if good people are not coming to the Air Force, they could try other avenues like coming in the Parliament also.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: This is a very light manner of replying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question was very simple. He wants to know whether you will look into raising their salaries and perks.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: That was the first part of my answer. The second part was, he asked whether good people were coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Having been a pilot himself he thinks that if you increase the salary and perks, you will get better people. Would you look into that?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The Pakistani pilots have to be paid more because the chances of dying are more for them.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is quite true that the Indian pilots are known for their efficiency and expertise, but at the same time it is also true that the rate of accidents in Air Force has gone up to a large extent because of human failure. This also cannot be negatived. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he would like to do to improve the efficiency of the pilots in view of the accidents and in view of the attributed cause being human failure.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: This is an important question because people have the impression that the accident rate in the Air Force has increased. This is not statistically proved. I have the statistics elsewhere and over the years there has been not an increase but a decrease.

Now the question of efficiency is absolutely the prime consideration whether there have been accidents or not. This the Air Force is fully aware of and taking steps all the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Per capita income of SC/ST in Andhra Pradesh

*104. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the per capita income of the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the comparison of their per capita income with that of the general categories; and

(d) whether any initiative has been taken by Government to increase the per capita income of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) No, Sir. Per capita income is not estimated at the national level separately for different social groups.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Apart from poverty alleviation programmes, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plans are being implemented to raise the level of income and consumption of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has also been agreed to provide additional Central assistance of Rs. 65 crores over a period of three years for the 'Contingency Plan' prepared by the State Government for the accelarated development of tribal areas affected by the extremist activities, out of which a provision of Rs. 23 crores has been made for the current year.